

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4640

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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USIAC

USIA FOR IEU/MCLAUGHLIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S INTERVIEW WITH SPANISH JOURNALIST

REF: MADRID 6684, LISBON 5622

1. ON OCTOBER 16 AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI GAVE BACKGROUND INTERVIEW TO FRANCISCO CERECEDO OF CAMBIO 16. FYI: FOLLOWING IS Q-A SUMMATION OF MAIN POINTS.

Q. HOW DO YOU RATE THE STRENGTH OF ELP?

A. THE ONLY THING I KNOW ABOUT ELP IS THE SPECULATION I READ ABOUT IN THE PAPERS. I READ ONE DAY THAT IT HAS 50 FOLLOWERS, ANOTHER DAY THAT IT HAS SEVERAL THOUSAND. IT IS ALL SPECULATIVE. WHAT I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT THE U.S. IN NO WAY SUPPORTS ELP. (CERECEDO INTERJECTED THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MADRID IS WELL INFORMED ABOUT ELP, AND THAT ELP IS MASSIVE.)

Q. IS THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN LISBON ACTIVE?

A. THAT'S A QUESTION YOU SHOULD POSE TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR. (CERECEDO FOUND THE ANSWER LESS THAN SATISFACTORY, SAYING THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TOLD HIM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY WAS MOST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTIVE. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR WAS ALSO

ACTIVE.)

Q. IS CUNHAL IN TROUBLE WITH HIS PCP CONSTITUENTS?

A. YOU SHOULD ASK HIM ABOUT THAT. (CERECEDO, PUZZLED BY LACK OF A LENGTHY, MEATY RESPONSE SAID, "AMBASSADOR, YOU HAVE THE REPUTATION OF BEING VERY WELL INFORMED, BUT IT APPEARS THAT YOU ARE NOT." AMBASSADOR SAID HE OBVIOUSLY HEARD RUMORS AND HAD SOME INFORMATION BUT DID NOT CONSIDER HIMSELF A "RELIABLE" SOURCE ON PCP.

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT U.S. AID TO PORTUGAL WAS TIED TO THE SACKING OF PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES?

A. NOT AT ALL. THE QUESTION OF AID TO PORTUGAL GOES BACK TO OCTOBER OF 1974, AND I DEALT, UPON ARRIVAL IN PORTUGAL, WITH THE THIRD PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, THEN THE FOURTH, THEN THE FIFTH, AND NOW THE SIXTH, ABOUT IT. AS A MATTER OF FACT, I EVEN DISCUSSED AID PROPOSALS WITH PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES HIMSELF.

Q. WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THE CHARGES THAT GOP UNDER VASCO GONCALVES FAVORED THE MPLA IN ANGOLA?

A. I DON'T BELIEVE IT TO BE IN THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR'S COMPETENCE TO TALK ABOUT ACCUSATIONS MADE ABOUT INDIVIDUALS. THE GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL'S POLICY TOWARD THE MOVEMENTS IN ANGOLA WAS ONE OF NEUTRALITY. IT IS NOT FOR ME TO JUDGE WHETHER EVERY INDIVIDUAL AGREED WITH THAT POLICY.

Q. WHAT IS THE VIEW OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ON THE POSITION OF THE AZOREAN RESIDENTS IN THE U.S. CLAMORING BEFORE CONGRESS FOR INDEPENDENCE FOR THE AZORES?

A. IN OUR SOCIETY PEOPLE ARE COMPLETELY FREE TO PURSUE THEIR INDIVIDUAL CAUSES. THIS BY NO MEANS IS AN INDICATION OF CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT SUPPORT ANY INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT IN THE AZORES. THE AZORES QUESTION IS A MATTER FOR THE PORTUGUESE TO DECIDE.

Q. IS THE U.S. AIR BASE IN THE AZORES STRATEGIC?

A. I AM NOT A MILITARY MAN. OBVIOUSLY IT IS IMPORTANT BUT I DO NOT KNOW IF SOMETHING THAT IS STRATEGIC ONE YEAR REMAINS SO THE NEXT YEAR.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE ABOUT COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE GOP?

A. THE COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT IS AN INTERNAL MATTER. NEVERTHELESS WE HAVE LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN THE POLICIES OF THAT GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY SINCE PORTUGAL IS A MEMBER OF NATO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND CONTRIBUTES TO OUR SECURITY NETWORK. OBVIOUSLY THE COMPOSITION OF A GOVERNMENT BEARS ON THE POLICIES IT WILL FOLLOW AND THIS HAS AN IMPACT ON THE PEOPLE OF THE U.S., ITS CONGRESS AND ON THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

Q. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT COMMUNISTS IN A NATO GOVERNMENT?

A. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THIS HAS APPEARED AND OUR POSITION HAS BEEN ONE OF CONCERN. WE SEE A CONTRADICTION IN COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN A GOVERNMENT WHICH IS A MEMBER OF AN ANTI-COMMUNIST

DEFENSIVE ALLIANCE.

2. THERE WERE NO QUESTIONS ABOUT SPAIN OR THE CIA. CERECEDO
WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AMERICAN FREELANCER NICOLE SZULC, WHOSE ONLY
COMMENT, AT THE END OF THE INTERVIEW, WAS TO SAY THAT "THINGS
ARE REALLY GETTING TOUGH IN SPAIN. IT IS GETTING SO BAD THAT
IN PLACES LIKE SAN SEBASTIAN I WOULDN'T DARE GO OUT AFTER DARK."
JORDAN

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